

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 244

By Eldridge

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Little Jimmy Dickens
upon his illustrious career in country music.

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that this General Assembly should pay homage to those
inspirational artists who perform pure and passionate country music; and

WHEREAS, Little Jimmy Dickens is an exemplary country music singer who has inspired
and uplifted audiences with his unique musical style for more than sixty years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dickens rose from humble beginnings in the tiny community of Bolt,
West Virginia, to the greatest heights in country music; and

WHEREAS, the oldest of thirteen children, Mr. Dickens excelled in high school and
received a scholarship to attend West Virginia State University; and

WHEREAS, at the age of eighteen, after choosing to pursue a career in country music
instead, Little Jimmy Dickens made his radio debut at WJLS in Beckley, West Virginia ; and

WHEREAS, after winning local acclaim for his vast musical talents, he began appearing
nationally on radio stations such as WIBC in Indianapolis and WLW in Cincinnati; and

WHEREAS, in 1948, with the help of Roy Acuff, the Grand Ole Opry welcomed him as a
member and he has been a fixture in Nashville ever since; and

WHEREAS, Little Jimmy Dickens has recorded over 200 songs and was a member of
Columbia Records for nineteen years; and

WHEREAS, he became a household name after recording several top country songs
including his signature hits "Country Boy," "Sleeping at the Foot of the Bed," and the light-
hearted, up-tempo song "Take an Old Cold Tater and Wait," which earned him the nickname
"Tater" from Hank Williams, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, touring the world and performing 300 nights a year for decades, Little Jimmy Dickens has earned the respect and admiration of his peers, colleagues, and fans alike for his hard work, dedication, and talent; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Little Jimmy Dickens' greatest honor as a performer came in 1983, when he was elected into the prestigious Country Music Hall of Fame at the Country Music Awards; and

WHEREAS, after more than sixty years in the music business, Mr. Dickens still takes his legendary voice out on the road at limited personal appearances and can be found most weekends performing at the Grand Ole Opry; and

WHEREAS, Little Jimmy Dickens' influence and numerous contributions to the world of country music are reflected in the sounds and performances of many of the younger country music stars, including his friend Brad Paisley; and

WHEREAS, Little Jimmy Dickens is one of the most respected and esteemed figures in country music, and his singing talents have garnered him the admiration of country music fans throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, his momentous achievements aside, Mr. Dickens is most proud of the love and support of his wife, Mona; and

WHEREAS, Little Jimmy Dickens truly epitomizes the creative spirit and commitment to the State's cultural heritage that are characteristic of a Tennessean; and

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize Little Jimmy Dickens upon his impressive career in country music, thank him for all he has done to preserve and extend the musical heritage of this State, and wish him the very best in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.